



State Representative | 189th Legislative District

TARAH PROBST

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COMMITTEES

- Education • Housing & Community Development • Local Government
- State Government • Tourism & Economic & Recreational Development



Potential negative effects include:

- Two exits will close.
- Emergency service response time will increase.
- Main Street gridlock will occur.
- Borough, school and library taxes will increase for residents.
- Large sound walls will be built.
- Access to hospitals will diminish.
- Local businesses will suffer.
- Eminent domain will lower home values.
- Harmful to our creeks and streams.



The petition, as well as the response from PennDOT and my response back to them, are available on my website, www.RepProbst.com.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES AGAINST I-80 EXPANSION

Many of you know that PennDOT has proposed expanding I-80 through Stroudsburg. I have been concerned about this project since my time as mayor of Stroudsburg and I continue to believe that expanding the highway will have many detrimental effects on the borough and surrounding communities.

We want 12-foot shoulders and bridges heightened, but we do not want six lanes and exits removed.

This project started out at \$100 million and now it is at \$700 million. Almost \$1 billion for three miles! This is as insane as it sounds!

In November, I convened a Town Hall at Stroudsburg High School to discuss the I-80 plan. Joining me were officials from Stroudsburg borough, emergency services, business owners and hundreds of you who showed up to learn more and to offer your support as the I-80 Impact Task Force and I try to convince PennDOT to make some necessary changes.

Since the Town Hall, more than 1,300 concerned residents and business owners have signed my petition that asks PennDOT and Gov. Josh Shapiro to scale back the proposed expansion of Interstate 80. I recognize this is an uphill battle, but we need PennDOT officials to take into consideration the harmful circumstances that will be created if they proceed without making any changes to their plan.

During an early December meeting in Harrisburg to discuss the project, I was able to present the petitions to PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. A few weeks later, I received an emailed response from him indicating that PennDOT is unwilling to make any modifications to their misguided plan. You can rest assured that I am not taking their “no” as the final answer and I sent him a letter back with my continued insistence that they listen to the serious concerns of Monroe County residents, business owners and environmentalists.

Stay tuned for what happens next ...



THE FIRST STEP TO PROPERLY FUNDING OUR SCHOOLS

In early January, the Basic Education Funding Commission delivered a report that proposed a way to properly fund our schools and provide property tax relief for homeowners in Monroe and Pike Counties, as well as throughout the commonwealth.

Democrats have been fighting for this for decades. Unfortunately, it took a court case to prove what we already knew!

Now it will be up to the divided state legislature to work with Gov. Shapiro to develop a plan over the coming years that will accomplish the goal of adequately funding public education in Pennsylvania. No student should have their learning opportunities determined by their zip code. And no homeowner in Monroe and Pike Counties should be forced to pay exorbitant school property taxes because other areas refuse to pay their fair share.

As a member of the House Education Committee, I look forward to being at the forefront of making the BEFC plan a reality; just like I was happy to vote for H.B. 1422, a measure that would bring fairness

and financial accountability to the way cyber/charter schools are funded and which could save taxpayers \$456 million. Now we need the Republican-controlled state Senate to vote on H.B. 1422.

The time for talk and inaction by legislative Republicans who were in charge of the House and Senate in Harrisburg for most of the past 20 years is over. Democrats are ready to take action!



The House Appropriations and Education Committees held a joint public hearing in November at Kings College in Wilkes-Barre to discuss education funding and school property taxes.

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$380

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

EXPANDED PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM NOW OPEN

I am proud to say I fought and won to make a good thing even better. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program income-eligibility limit is now raised for both homeowners and renters to \$45,000 and the maximum rebate is raised to \$1,000, allowing more folks to stay in their homes and afford their basic necessities.

Now thousands more seniors and people living with disabilities in Monroe and Pike Counties are eligible, and those who are already getting a rebate could be getting a bigger one.

Give my office a call at 570-420-2850, send an email or stop by and see us and we'll find out if you're eligible and help you apply.

STATE GRANTS BENEFIT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

In December, \$233,531 in state grants were approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority for local groups in the district.

The Smithfield Sewer Authority will receive \$134,343 for a sanitary sewer extension along Ash Lane and Holly Lane in Smithfield Township.

The Pocono Environmental Education Center was awarded \$40,385 to help offset loss revenue and for operating expenses for the Science and Technology Center located in Lehman Township.

The Fine Arts Discovery Series Inc., doing business as the Sherman Theatre in Stroudsburg, will receive \$58,793 to help fund its operating costs.

I am always thankful when communities that I represent can reap the benefits of state grant programs that otherwise might be spent elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

If an organization that you are part of would like to discuss state grant funding, please contact my office at 570-420-2850.



WILDLIFE REHAB CENTER GRANT BILL PASSES HOUSE

My bill that would allow Pennsylvania to help fund wildlife rehabilitation centers passed the state House of Representatives in October.

Wildlife rehabilitators are essential in treating and temporarily caring for injured, diseased and displaced wildlife. They also provide essential education in order to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, which is a health and safety factor, and they promote stewardship of wildlife.

They do not receive state or federal funding and primarily rely on donations from individuals or other entities to fund rehabilitation efforts. To provide support for the facilities, I authored legislation that would establish the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program to provide wildlife rehabilitators with the opportunity to apply for a grant that could be used to cover the costs associated with the recovery and rehabilitation of injured, sick or orphaned wildlife, and the improvement of rehabilitation facilities.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission would determine the amount of each grant based on the number of wildlife the rehabilitator takes in from the previous fiscal year. Grant amounts would be between \$2,500 and \$75,000 and the program would be funded by an appropriation in the annual state budget.

The legislation (H.B. 1522) awaits action in the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee.

PIKE COUNTY
SATELLITE OFFICES

REPRESENTATIVE
TARAH PROBST

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP
SATELLITE OFFICE
193 MUNICIPAL DRIVE,
BRUSHKILL, PA 18324
TUE & THU
9AM - 2PM

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP
SATELLITE OFFICE
116 WILSON HILL RD.,
DINCMANS FERRY, PA 18328
TUE & THU
8:30AM - 4PM

570-420-2850

We will be offering constituent services, PTRR, and more!

REPRESENTATIVE
TARAH PROBST

My office can help you in English and Spanish.

A Spanish speaking staff member is here to help you!

STROUDSBURG OFFICE
10AM-12PM
570-420-2850
18 SOUTH NINTH ST., SUITE 108
STROUDSBURG, PA 18380

BILINGUAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN STROUDSBURG

If you or someone you know needs assistance from my office in Spanish, I am proud to have a bilingual staffer who can help you. Please call us at 570-420-2850 from 10 a.m. to noon and Carlos will do his best to get your problem solved.

MONTHLY DISABILITY OUTREACH PROGRAM AVAILABLE

A monthly outreach program offered by my office, in conjunction with the Center for Independent Living, is designed to help people living with disabilities maximize their independence.

On the 1st Wednesday of every month, a representative from MyCIL is available at my Stroudsburg office to help people with disabilities. MyCIL assists people with services designed to maximize their independence, including securing transportation, housing, home and community-based services and more.

This is just another way that my office can help people access local, county and state services that are best suited to their needs. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call my office at 570-420-2850.



WORKING TO OPEN RT. 611

Since the closure of Route 611 through the Delaware Water Gap area in late 2022, I have been working with state, federal and local officials to get it reopened. Unfortunately, there appears to be a complicated and unnecessary holdup between the documents needed from PennDOT before approval can be given by the National Park Service to begin the work to reopen. I am hopeful that our collective efforts will lead to this unfortunate transportation inconvenience being resolved in the near future.

CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT EXPANDED

Paying for child and dependent care is tough on working families and family caregivers. Finding a good day care is a challenge – and with the cost averaging over \$1,000 per month, paying for care can be an even bigger challenge.

I am proud to have worked with Gov. Shapiro to deliver for working parents and caregivers as we more than tripled the state's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help nearly a quarter-million Pennsylvania families keep more of their hard-earned money. The previous one-child credit of \$180 is up to as much as \$1,050, and the previous two-or-more children credit of \$360 is up to as much as \$2,100.

This is not just for child care. If you are paying for care of someone who is elderly or living with a disability, you could also qualify for the tax

credit. If you qualify for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, you also qualify for the state credit.

While the expanded tax credit will help a lot of Pennsylvanians, it does not address the root causes of how our child care model came to be this inaccessible in the first place. Low wages paid to care staff is causing many professionals to leave the industry, forcing facilities to close and further limiting care options.

Given this reality, we must expand access to quality care through more than tax credits. To do that, I co-sponsored H.B. 975, legislation that would create a “public private partnership,” encouraging employers to help workers cover the costs of child care. This bill is based on similar legislation that has succeeded in other states and is supported by the business

community. I will continue working toward policies that create greater access to child care, improve care quality, and pay care workers fairly for the work they do and the credentials they need.

	Income Under \$43,000		Earning Above \$43,000	
	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit	Prior to Change	Expanded Tax Credit
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent	\$315	\$1,050	\$180	\$600
Max Credit for Two Eligible Dependents	\$630	\$2,100	\$360	\$1,200

If you need assistance, please contact my office at 570-420-2850 or stop by at 18 S. 9th St., Suite 105 in Stroudsburg.

PROBST VOTES FOR COLA FOR RETIREES

As a member of the House State Government Committee, I joined my Democratic colleagues in voting for a bill that would provide a cost-of-living increase to retired public school teachers and state workers, some who have not received an adjustment in 20 years.

House Bill 1416 would provide incremental increases to retired employees based on their retirement date. Those who have been retired longer would receive the largest adjustment. This would be for those retiring before July 2, 2001.

These are teachers and loyal public employees who gave so much to their communities and have been retired for many years. We owe them the dignity in retirement that they deserve. This adjustment is long overdue.

I was proud to vote for the bill when it passed the House of Representatives. I encourage you to call your state Senator and ask them to support the bill.

PIKE VA RELOCATES TO SHOHOLA BUSINESS CENTER

The Pike County Veterans Affairs Office (VA) has relocated to the Shohola Business Center, 835 Route 6, Unit 3, Shohola, PA 18458. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The new office is located next door to the Pike County Workforce Development Agency.

Two accredited Veterans Service Officers, Jesiah Schrader, Director; and Karen Olson, Deputy Director, are available to assist the nearly 4,000 Pike County veterans with navigating veteran benefits processes. Services include county benefits, state benefits, and federal benefits, including Real Estate Tax Exemption Programs, Pike County Veterans Discount Card, cemetery flags, filing claims such as disability, service-connected deaths, dependent and indemnification, pensions, VTA grants, and assistance with homelessness

Call 570-296-3563 to schedule an appointment.



Joining a Capitol rally with Moms Demand Action to stand up for protecting our communities from gun violence.



HELPING THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY

In October, I spoke before the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee about my bill that would expand the disabled veterans real estate tax exemption by giving proportional discounts to veterans who are disabled, as determined by the VA.

Currently, under the Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption program, veterans who are classified as 100% disabled by the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) are exempt from paying real estate taxes on their primary home, provided they meet other program requirements. However, veterans who are classified as 90% disabled and are impaired in their ability to earn a living are not eligible for an exemption.

My H.B. 1401 would expand the tax exemption program, matching the level of reduction to a veteran's disability percentage, as determined by the VA. This program is an excellent way to show appreciation to our veterans by providing much-needed financial relief.



State Representative
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 @RepTarahProbst

A Spanish version of this mailer is available on my website www.RepProbst.com.

Hay una versión en español de este correo en mi sitio web www.RepProbst.com.

lpo.ks.0224

Probst's office can help you!

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
- Pennsylvania state income tax questions or problems.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and application assistance.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery.
- PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Information about state and local government agencies.
- Questions about the veterans property tax exemption.
- Assistance applying for Human Services programs: Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, and LIHEAP.
- There is a notary on staff to help with personal documents.
- Any state government service or issue!

State Rep Tarah Probst

2023
Year in Review

\$3.9 Million
in Funding Awarded to the District

200+ **BILL**
Bills Passed to Help Working Families

12,866 **CONSTITUENT**
Services Provided

@Probst @TarahProbst

STAY UP TO DATE!

Sign up to receive my email updates at www.pahouse.com/emailsignup or scan the QR code.

